

# CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE  
D E A R N E S S  
O F  
CORN AND PROVISIONS,  
A N D A  
P R O P O S A L

To raise 2,500,000*l.* per annum, without  
OPPRESSION.

DEDICATED to all NOBLEMEN and GENTLEMEN that  
already have been, now are, or hereafter may be in  
ADMINISTRATION.

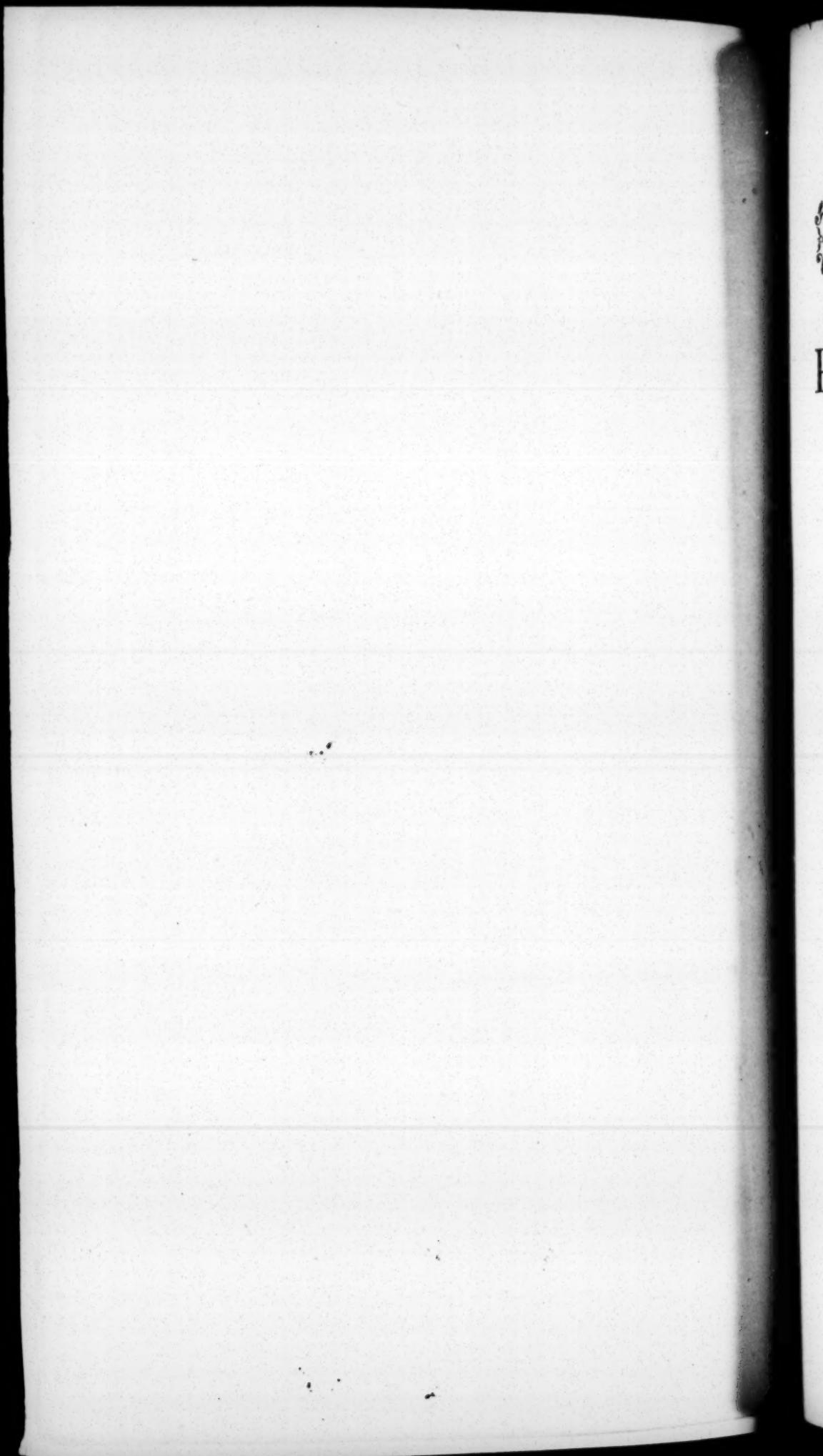
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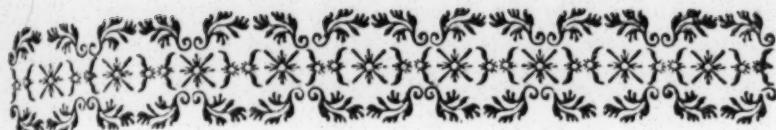
He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread, but  
he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty  
enough.  
PROV. xxviii 19.

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L O N D O N:

Printed for J. ALMON, opposite *Burlington-House,*  
*Piccadilly.* MDCCLXVII.





## P R E F A C E T O T H E R E A D E R.

I OUGHT to make some apology for these hints, as they were drawn up in haste, and are not so correct as I could wish. But as they are only intended for others to improve on, I hope that will plead my excuse.

My proposals in relation to salt as a manure, is a very ticklish affair, as much mischief may happen before the exact proportion can be ascertained; however, I think on proper encouragement, I could find out a method to mix and dilute any quantity to about the strength

strength of urine, so that it might be used without any sort of hazard, and where a farmer now makes an hundred and fifty load of dung in a year, he might make three hundred loads.

As to the second part, I was led to that by seeing many gentlemen, officers and others soliciting for ten thousand acres of land, up even to forty thousand acres, in America, without having the means of settling one hundred.

Some may imagine I write this for lucre, but I wish I may be able to pay for printing and publishing. Others may imagine I have an eye to be one of the board of plenty, which to be sure I should not decline, but must say, if a man dedicated three days, viz. tuesday, wednesday and thursday in every week, and did justice, he ought to be well paid. And it would surely be better to establish such a board of five, at the expence, I will suppose, of 2500*l.* per annum,

## P R E F A C E.      iii

annum, than to be forced every four or five years, to have special sessions, and hang up rioters in most counties of England. I have been informed that there is some such regulations in Portugal, and that a child is sure to have justice done in the market: for the first fraud is imprisonment, the second corporal punishment, and the third transportation to the Brasils. And why the English might not establish as good a police as the Portuguese, I cannot comprehend.

Since I have wrote the following sheets, I hear the gains of the turbot fishery to the Dutch, is much more considerable than what I have represented it. Now, I should think a machine might be invented, at a small expence, to bring each fish separate, without a possibility of bruising. I think I could make such an one, which I will attempt the next season, and hope for success.

Noble-

Noblemen and Gentlemen, giving money, bread, &c. to the poor, are only palliatives; for, if it should so happen, that a bad harvest or two was to happen, we must be in a terrible situation; but if the plans hereafter mentioned were to take place, it might be expected that in a short time the distresses of the poor would be totally relieved, plenty and good order would succeed to want and riot, and our poor be well cloathed, and fed, and regulated, and from the greatest misery, become a contented and a happy people.

CONSIDERA-

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## DEDICATION.

LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

THIS general address is somewhat unusual, but the truth is, when I had wrote the following sheets I found two things wanting, a motto and a patron; for the first I had recourse to the holy bible, where I easily found a motto properly adapted to the subject, as for a patron, I applied to the little red book, in hopes, out of the many there recorded, I might find one; but in vain; for though I thought of this great patriot, and that great financier, &c. yet I was afraid to fix on any one, lest others that were

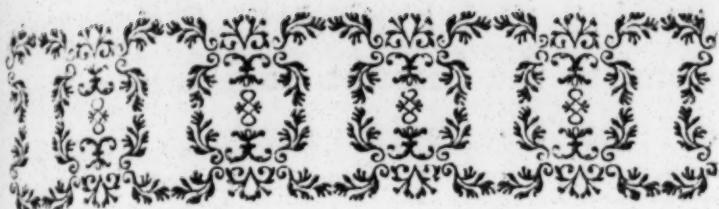
## DEDICATION.

were omitted might be offended. In this uncertainty I determined to dedicate my work to all, past, present and to come ; hoping at the same time, every *real* patriot and well-wisher to his country will look on it as if singularly and separately addressed to him alone. Another advantage arises, which is, that I now avoid the imputation of flattery, and my patrons the disagreeable sensation of blushing. Therefore, without farther ceremony, I beg leave to subscribe myself,

LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

Your devoted Servant,

The AUTHOR.



## Considerations, &c.

THE dearness of corn, and all  
the other necessaries of life,  
makes it incumbent on every  
one who is conversant with husbandry  
business, to endeavour to find and point  
out proper expedients to prevent the  
continuance of so great a calamity.

There are various causes assigned for  
the present scarcity, some of which  
are artificial and should be stopped im-  
mediately, others natural, and must  
be submitted to.

It may not be improper to point out  
these several causes. Some urge that  
there is an amazing increase of the

number of inhabitants of this kingdom, to the amount of sixteen millions of souls. This, when foreigners, negroes, colonists (now here) are reckoned, they insist is not improbable; but it is to be feared that these only take things from appearances, and judge from this great metropolis only, which is indeed amazingly increased, which is one great reason for the dearness of provisions; for the whole country for a hundred miles round is ransacked to supply London, which in many articles cannot be done sufficiently; by which it appears very plain, the head is too big for the body, and that London has drained the country of mechanics and labourers, in so much that in most parts servants have double wages to what they used to have; and labourers wages for threshing is increased to fifty and even to two hundred per cent. For they now give from fifteen shillings to thirty shillings for threshing a load of wheat, whereas ten shillings was formerly the usual price.

Noblemen and gentlemen of fortune keep a vast many unnecessary servants, for show, *not use*, which is another great drain of labourers, for no man that can live the idle and luxurious life of a livery servant in town, will live on plain food and work hard for the farmer in the country.

Inoculation for the small-pox has so very much prevailed in the country, that thousands and ten thousands have escaped the fatal effects of that distemper in the natural way: but what are the consequences of so good an invention? No sooner are the lower sort recovered, but they aim (the women especially) to get a servitude in London, or to use their own words *to better themselves*; this is the only objection that can be made to inoculation, and indeed it is one, for before they did not dare to quit the place of their birth for fear of that distemper, so remained *honest* and *useful* in the country; for it may be supposed the very great number of women

of the town, are very many of them these unhappy females, who in hopes of gain and a silk gown, quit their habitations, and after being disappointed from time to time by the worthless holders of statute and register offices, are first forced to pawn their cloaths for bread, and afterwards easily fall a prey to lust, and soon become the most miserable of human beings, besides many dreadful mischiefs to the community, the natural consequences of their abandoned lives.

The amazing number of horses now kept and *exported*, is another cause. It might not be impossible to prove that ten horses are now kept in London where one was forty years ago. This naturally encourages the farmer to keep horse teams, and so quite to neglect the breed of oxen; which is the reason that lean cattle is so very dear to the grazier, consequently to the butcher, and finally to the consumer: besides, it must be observed an ox team eats no corn,

as a horse team must, and an ox cannot eat so much grass or hay in a year as an horse.

One other cause arises from the amazing use of tea by all degrees of people, even down to the lowest washer-woman; for the consumption of milk and bread and butter twice a day universally, has caused such vast quantities of land to be turned into milk dairies about London, that at this time, one man that lives near London, and his son in law, has eight hundred milch cows: it must follow, this man must monopolize many farms for to carry on his busines.

The laying many small farms into one great one, is vastly detrimental, as it lessens the number of houses, and consequently of the lesser sort of provisions, as poultry, ducks, geese, pigs, eggs, pigeons, &c.

Few farmers, especially near London (it is meant within one hundred miles

miles) will rear any calves; they can make more use of the ground to better profit by suckling of calves, which they sell at eleven or twelve weeks old; and the lambs which fall about Christmas, they fatten and sell for slaughter in April, and so never rear any at all.

Engrossers, regrators and those sort of dealers, are said to be the principal cause of the present scarcity. Selling by sample also is said to be very injurious, as are the different measures for corn of the different places,

The custom of making hard soap instead of soft, is an undoubted reason why candles are very dear.

Our fisheries, which might be of vast service, are much neglected; our fishermen being poor have no fund, but every one acts on his own shallow bottom, and they rather chuse to smuggle than fish, in hopes to get rich soon.

We

We have acted just wrong, for instead of inclosing commons and waste land near London, in proportion, as I shall hereafter mention, many commons at a great distance from London are *totally* inclosed and sown, and the corn produced has been exported, and no cattle bred for some years.

No scheme has ever been adopted to encrease a supply of fuel instead of coals in London, though many rivers running into the Thames, seem to offer what the Dutch burn, that is peat and turf, I mean for the use of the poor, and it might be brought by those rivers at a very small charge.

The exportation of corn with a bounty, is a very nice matter; people clamour about it just now: but let us not go too fast, let any gentleman calculate what the farmer ought to have for a load of wheat, and what he grows it for, and not be in a hurry to give a fatal

fatal stab to husbandry and the corn trade, of amazing importance to this country in plentiful years.

A very great cause indeed is, our poorer sort are idle ; they will have the best bread, so that few bakers will bake the second sort, tho' cheaper and more wholesome; they spend most part of their time in tipling in alehouses, and the women their time at the tea table; and when distress comes on them, they do not complain as they ought to a magistrate for relief from their parish, but breed riots, and often wantonly destroy what they complain is so scarce, which adds to their calamity.

As to the natural causes they are too apparent, for to go no farther back than the year 1765: it was a very dry summer, so that all lent corn was burnt up, such as pease, beans, oats, barley, &c. It is well known that every poor family in the country intirely depends on their hog

hog (for few have more than one) *for meat*, which they breed up with the greatest care and assiduity; but hog meat was too dear to compleat the fatting of their hogs, so they were obliged to go to the butcher; and the country butchers killed horned cattle half fat, so they really killed two in one; what I mean is, one properly fattened would have been equal to two so killed, which is a very great loss, besides the loss of tallow by killing half fat cattle.

The wet spring blighted all the corn, wheat especially, and spoiled immense quantities of hay, so that it is expected meat will be still dearer in the spring, for the hay so wetted will not fat cattle. It would be vanity in me to presume to dictate expedients for all these evils, I shall only therefore give some hints from which I hope more able persons may strike out something of use to this country.

But before I propose any expedient, it would be necessary for his majesty

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to appoint a board of plenty, or commissioners of plenty, to sit in London on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, or oftener if necessary, five in number, with proper salaries; three to be a quorum, they not by any means able to sit in the house of commons, but to make their report from time to time to a committee of the house of commons during the sitting of parliament, and to the privy council during the recesses; and their business would be very great as will be seen in the following sheets: and if it pleased God to bless us with plenty they might order corn to be laid up in cheap times against any future bad season, or accident of the navigation of the Thames being stopped, as it is at this very time, January 14, 1767, which has already caused bread to be raised a size and half, and if the thaw now does not take place it must still rise. They should be understanding men in country affairs, at the same time above any partiality to any one: they might have power to  
order

order people (known to hoard corn) to bring it out and sell it, under a penalty, and might take cognizance of monopolizers, engrossers, regrators, and licence and register millers and dealers in corn and meal: they might also regulate the people proper to be the purchasers of farms, either of the lord of the manor, or by tickets of his majesty, as is hereafter proposed. In short very many regulations and things will come under their particular care, which is now open and very imperfectly understood by the country justice. But I would by no means be thought to make a job of this so salutary appointment, for that reason they should not be enabled during their holding the place, to sit in the house of commons.

However this scheme may be approved or not, something must be done, and that as soon as possible, for it will be of little use to raise corn in 1768 to feed people that are starved in 1767; some corn even yet may be raised, as

oats, barley and peas; but it requires the utmost dispatch.

If the number of the people are increased (which is much to be doubted) it is certainly a very great blessing, but it is to be feared it is quite the contrary, for London indeed is increased, and is the grave of thousands, that pleasure or profit entice to come to it; our hospitals and our jails are full, and some stop should be put to the buildings, or they should be taxed, *which they are not now*, in the new buildings.

London now extends to Marybone, to Tyburn, to Chelsea, to Brumpton, and some thousands of houses have been built within these three or four years, which has drained the country of all sorts of labourers and mechanics, and raised wages.

It is hoped the noblemen and gentlemen will forego shew and pomp for safety and public advantage, or at least a proper tax should be laid on those who do

do not chuse to submit to so salutary a regulation ; at the same time to draw the line as to the number that every degree should keep, would be very difficult : but suppose a private gentleman of fifteen hundred a year, was allowed two, a footman and a coachman, or a footman and groom, for a gardener I by no means reckon, as he helps to raise something : but how different is this from the common practice, where generally a person of that fortune, has a butler, a footman, a coachman, a postilion and a groom, and sometimes a huntsman and whipper in ? However, I here drop my pen, as it would be presumption in me to carry my ideas higher.

The inferior sort coming out of the country after inoculation, might be easily regulated ; for a register might be kept in every parish, and it might be enacted that none should go out without a certificate, and that no livery servants, or servants in husbandry should  
be

be entitled to recover their wages without such certificate; but this is only meant as an outline for others of greater ability to improve on. Suppose the words of the permit were in the following form.

Parish of B— in County of S—.

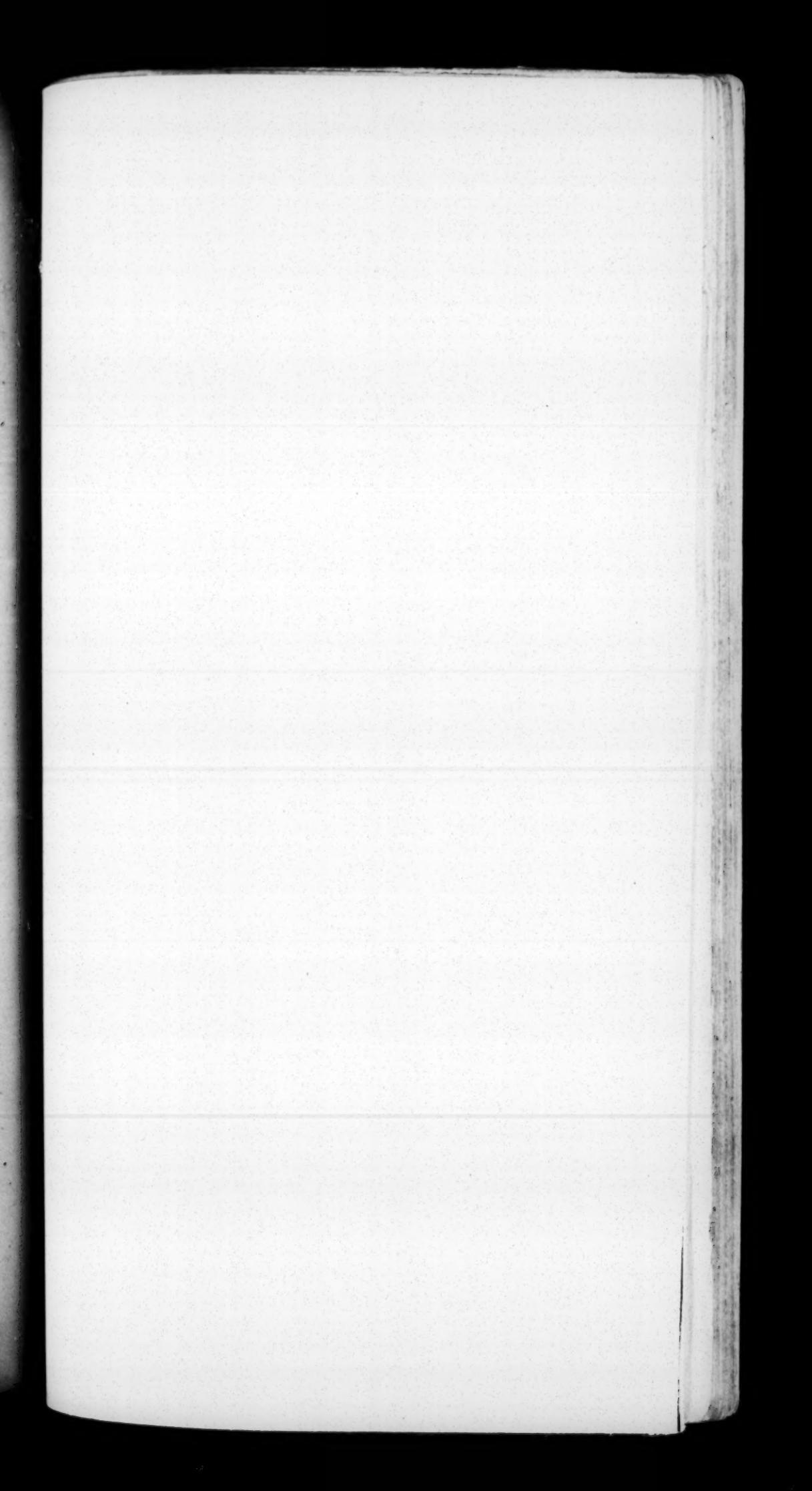
John Smith, aged 19, a single man, is permitted to go to service as a footman to Mrs. Johnston, who does now reside in London, and we testify to the best of our knowledge that he has behaved himself well and honestly.

A. B. Rector or Curate.

M. H. and R. B. Church Wardens,  
or Overseers.

Vestry, Oct. 27, 1766.

This would be a sort of testimonial, and be of great use to the servants themselves, and if they went without such certificate it would be at their peril, and it might be enacted, that under the same penalty of *not being able to recover their wages*, the back of the said permit should



# A REGISTER of the PARIS

Names.	Age.	Trades.	Family.	Behaviour.	Ability.
John West	46	Bricklayer	Two Daughters	Very bad	*Able and does get 9s per Week
Elizabeth Binsted	58	A Widow	No Family	Very good	Infirm
John Smith	50	Labourer	No Family	Very bad, a Wanderer	*Able
Mrs. Quennel	18	o	o	A Prostitute	*Very able
Jany Jones	8	o	Father and Mother dead	An Ideot	o
George Copus	43	Labourer	Wife and 4 small Children	Very good	Broke his leg
John Mason	18	Labourer	Wife and 3 Children	Very Idle	*Able
Peter Moon	20	Labourer	Single Fellow never in Service	Very Idle	*Can work well
John Ford	56	Rope-maker	1 Son, 1 Daughter, in good Circumstances able to keep him	*Bad	Not able to work but little

N.B. Those I mark with an Asterism should be well whipped every Time related  
every Denomination should wear a badge on pain of whipping, not exceeding

# RISH POOR of B. 1756.

ty.	when first chargeable.	When punished.	When discharged	Allowance.
d does Week	September 10, 1750.	Never yet punished	Still on the Books	12s. per Month
	May 10, 1753.	o	o	6s. per Month
	June 10, 1755, passed home	Whipped	Gone off	Cost the Parish in Money and Cloaths 1L. 5s.
e	Passed home, July 18, 1755.	Not whipped	Gone off	Cost 1L.
	From her Birth	o	o	6s. a Month
leg	May 9.	o	o	1L. a Month, and Surgeon
	From May, 1751.	Once whipped	And discharged	Cost the Parish 10s.
k well	1st May, 1756, for nobody would employ him	Never	Will not go to Service but work at his own Hands.	Has at Times cost the Parish 5L.
to work e	For 3 Years past	o	o	8s. a Month.

time relieved, until they worked, or they behaved better. All of exceeding two hundred Lashes well laid on, nor under an hundred.

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should be indorsed how long they had lived in each place, which would prevent many contentions about settlements.

The certificate should be on parchment, and found by the parish, without any expence to the pauper. The register and statute offices should be regulated and licensed. A small tax should be laid on horses, and those that are kept for show, running horses, and hunters, as well as on those that are exported; but this I leave to the judgment of my superiors, only meaning to shew how cattle and corn, may be increased by degrees: And first, every farmer using a plough-land of fifty pound a year, (which is explained in an act for repairing the high roads of England,) to be obliged to raise yearly two calves for three years, and so on in proportion for more plough-lands; so that a parish of fifteen horse teams would raise ninety calves in three years, and if then oppressive, it might be alter'd by the board of plenty.

Dairies

Dairies and milk-people should be forced to breed yearly one or two calves for three years, for every ten cows, which would not be oppressive, as one cow would bring up two or three calves till weanable, which would not be felt, if that unnecessary, superfluous meal of tea and bread and butter in an afternoon could be prevented, and it is to be hoped people of fashion will set the example, and forbid it among the lowest class of their own families.

For the future no farms should be laid together to exceed 200l. a year, and even in that case, the houses on the small farms to be kept up, or if absolutely necessary to be pulled down, to be rebuilt upon some other part of the premises: this also to come under the care of the board of plenty. And no farmer for the future by others or himself, to rent different farms of above that value, the leases, ipso facto, to be void, and he under a severe penalty not exceeding.

As there is already a method proposed to raise the greater horned cattle, it remains as necessary to raise sheep by degrees. Some have been so absurd to propose a total stop to the killing of cow-calves and ewe-lambs, but this would be oppressive *indeed*, and the ruin of many families, but it may be right to explain the nature of this husbandry, whereby it will appear that the increase of sheep must be done by degrees. A century past, people used to raise and fat their own stock, but there has been a great change since the improvement of clover-grafs, turneps, and other winter foods, which has enabled the farmer to fat a prodigious quantity of cattle for the London markets.

The usual course of the management of sheep, is, that Dorsetshire, Wiltshire, Hampshire and Sussex, and some other counties breed up great quantities of ewes and wethers, to sell about Michaelmas to the turnep farmers, who fat the wethers and the lambs, and sell them

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in the spring, and the ewes they sell to the sucklers about Pinner, Hounslow, &c. in Middlesex, to suckle house-lamb, the next year for the London market, who afterward sell them to the marshes to be fattened, or else fat them themselves, so that they never raise any at all.

The downish farmer could not keep his whole stock he breeds all winter, nor could the turnep farmer keep any great quantity all summer, there being no grass in winter on the down, and the turnep farms (except a little for cows and horses) are all sowed in summer; but it might be enacted that they might breed up yearly four or six lambs, for every hundred ewes or weathers, and the sucklers of house lamb to do the same, and this to continue for three years; which could not be very difficult as many ewes breed twins: so suppose 6000 fatted in Surry, yearly, it would breed up 1080 in three years, besides those that fell from the first and second years stock as sheep breed at one year old or less.

As

As the present laws are, it is very hard to detect ingrossers, forestallers, regrators, wherefore a plain and short law should be made in regard to them, and all persons that sell corn should be licensed, and no meal-man or miller to buy any corn, but should give a certificate to the seller, and be obliged to grind and sell it in a limited time.

As to selling by sample, it is certainly of advantage to the farmer, as well as the poor, for often, and indeed at most places, the corn sold at market is not ground at those markets, but carried back into the country, sometimes quite to where it grew, which helps to enhance the price to the consumer; besides if it was sold at market, and not (as now) at the barn doors to the poor, they must lose one day in six, to go to fetch it, which they can by no means afford to do.

The making hard soap instead of soft soap, (which last is made with oil) has

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increased the price of tallow candles very much. A remedy may arise from laying a heavier duty on hard, and a lighter on soft soap; and every encouragement possible should be given to the oil trade, otherwise our wool manufactures may suffer; and every means should be taken to encourage our fisheries, especially the turbot fishery, which the Dutch have now all to themselves, they having a better way of bringing their fish to market unbruised and white, when our fishermen lose great numbers, and what they do bring are bruised and black. Our fishermen can catch them quite as well as the Dutch, but in landing them they fail.

It is pity some public spirited gentlemen (as that fishery is in fine weather in summer) don't make an attempt to find out the Dutch method. The Dutch carry out upwards of 15000<sup>t</sup>. every season from the port of London only, most of which would be thrown into

into our own hands could we bring them as good to market.

Their white herring also will ever be better than ours, as they take so great care to purify their salt.

As to smuggling it might easily be put an end to. First let every boat be marked and numbered; their anchors, grapnels, stones, also numbered, with the mark of the boat; build his majesties cutters without a waist, that is exactly as the cutters are; burn their boats when taken, try the men in London, sell their horses in *London*, send light horse after them, guard the passes by night, have places of information in different parts of each maritime county; let each parish, where unaccustomed goods are discovered or seized, have a share, upon which *qui tam* actions might be founded; take away from the justices the power of mitigation, let the men convicted be transported to the East-Indies: This well and

and *honestly* followed, only for one year, would totally put an end to those miscreants, fellows that carry one thousand pounds a week out of Kent and Sussex, and bring us back brandy and tea, to poison our men and women, and bring lace and silks to ruin our manufactures; besides often carrying over our wool, fullers-earth, and lately live sheep. A crown piece, or indeed half a crown piece is hard to be seen in Sussex: and a great reason of the scarcity of our silver, is, it is carried away by these fellows, who are indeed very numerous, but by all means should be totally suppressed.

The reason the drovers (that come to our fairs about London towards winter with cows and cattle) give, why their cattle is so dear, is that many commons in Staffordshire and Lancashire have been *totally* inclosed and sown, the corn has been exported, and scarce any cattle bred as there used to be. Now had all commons been only one fifth part incloſed,

as I shall more particularly mention in the second part of this book, it could not have been of the same ill consequence, but of vast benefit, especially those dreary wastes near London, and would be quite agreeable to the statute of Merton.

It surely might be possible to procure peat and turf very cheap, by the rivers Wey and the Kennet, for a substitute in the room of coals for the poor.

At Woking in Surry peat and turf are the usual fire of the poor at a very cheap rate, which still would be much cheaper if an act was obtained for the lord of the manor and the tenants to sell turf and peat, for at present the lord will not let the tenants sell, or the tenants let the lord, though there is an inexhaustible quantity, enough for both, and immense quantities to sell: but now the chief that is sold is chiefly from private inclosed grounds. The navigation of these rivers might be carried

on

6n by twelve boats worked by men on each river, only to carry six or eight tons each, from May to September; and to pay one quarter of the toll for riverage, which the present barges now pay; they not to carry any other goods lest they hurt the navigation of the large boats, except dung, ashes, manure, which the others never carry. The reason why the boats should be so small, is that they would not draw so much water, and would only want a lock of water to bring them on, whereas the large boats must have great pennings and flashes after them, and are often stopped in very dry summers about Sunbury. Two men, or two and a boy, it may be apprehended, would be quite sufficient. This would be striking out a new branch of trade, and twenty-four boats on those two rivers, during the course of a summer, would bring and amass a prodigious deal of fuel. Indeed there is one very great objection, that is want of room in poor peoples houses (which objection there is not to  
coals

coals) but even this, I should think (by their having a small quantity, at a time (such as a sugar hogshead, properly covered) might be got over.

The bounty on corn has been of prodigious advantage to England, and *hastily taking it off for ever*, would be a very dangerous experiment, or even to lay an equal bounty, as has been proposed, on flour, would be wrong; as all other nations would take the advantage by exporting their corn in grain; for the same reasons that induce us to desire to grind and manufacture it here, do actually induce the buyer to grind it there: besides, flour is more apt to be spoiled than the grain. No farmers, as wages, taxes, rent, &c. are, can raise wheat under four shillings a bushel, which is eight pounds a load; therefore a bounty should be given till it was in general above ten guineas a load; and no embargo laid till it was twelve guineas a load: for all things considered corn is not now dear, but as every other sort

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of provisions are so, that dearness is the more felt. I have known wheat sold at seventeen pounds a load and no grumbling or riots, but then every thing else was cheaper than now, or what (I am afraid) it will be *for some time.*

Our poorer sort are grown to such a pitch of insolence and riot, that it requires the most serious considerations to put a stop to this nuisance; the very beggar insults you if you don't give; coachmen, and post-chaise-men are superlatively insolent; the very porter will not fetch a parcel half a mile under a shilling, that only cost sixpence for coming in the coach forty; the warehouse-men will send the things by their porter, and charge warehouse, &c. The men spend their time tipling, and women at the tea-table, and some method, *salutary method*, must be taken, and they must be regulated: they won't eat household bread, *tho' the most wholesome and cheapest,*

*cheapest*, so no bakers chuse to bake what they cannot sell.

Every holyday and every execution, at Tyburn (as on this day when there were at least 30,000 people) affords most amazing scenes of drunkennes and debauchery, to the great shame of any country, especially this, where the best laws are the worst executed. Our streets are filled in the day with beggars, in the night with thieves and strumpets; surely the sturdy beggar that was able and not willing to work might be sent to people the Floridas and other colonies; and the women also, after being cured, if distemper'd, might be sent there, for I apprehend if the Magdalen-houfe was ten times as big as Chelsea or Greenwich hospital, it would not contain half the common women of this nation.

Our mechanicks will not work on a Monday, or often on a Tuesday: for if they can get enough to live the life

of dissipation they use themselves to, neither the cries of their own family at home, the interest of their master, their own health, or indeed any other consideration whatever will prevail on them to work, while they have a farthing of the money of the last weeks pay; and as yet no expedient has been found to prevent it, indeed few have been properly attempted.

Surely all beggars should be sent to their parishes, or the place where (if their parish could not be found) last relieved, and notice given of this; and after that, any beggar found in any parish to be whipped out.

All porters, chairmen, post-chaise-boys should also be registered and numbered, and an office to take care of their misdeeds; for the last of these gentry very often drive races on the roads near London, and do mischief, and are gone before the injured party can find out who they are; which, if the post

post chaises were numbered in a conspicuous manner, would not so often happen: the master to be liable to the damage done, and the driver committed for a year, and to be whipped once every quarter: for the second offence to be transported for five years.

Such sort of severity would soon strike an awe, and be of great use; but indeed to work a total change in the manners of the vulgar, will require time, as they have been indulged too long; but some few examples and wholesome severity would in time make a change, a material change. And all riots of mechanics, (without application to a magistrate first) all insolent meetings with black flags, beat of drums, sounding of horns, and other overt acts, should be most exemplarily punished, and that in as summary a way as was possible. In short it will require the utmost pains and consideration to form a *new, plain, and short code* of poor laws, which laws are now

con-

confused, contradictory to each other, and very prolix. A register was once proposed in every parish, which might have done good if properly attended to. See the scheme annexed.

As to the natural causes of bad weather, &c. as they cannot be any way, (by human wisdom) remedied, they must be submitted to as the acts of the Almighty.

Notwithstanding the improvements in most sorts of husbandry within a century, it yet remains a matter of doubt if that art is carried to the greatest perfection. The art of an husbandman is to keep his ground clean from weeds, and at the same time rich in heart, or in other words, *full of manure*. The first may be done by frequent ploughings and weeding; but the last (as manure is so very difficult to be got at any distance in sufficient quantities) is almost impossible to be performed: whereas, was a premium given for the  
find-

finding out a proper proportion of a clean cheap manure; I mean salt, and a duty of only six-pence laid on such salt as was used in husbandry only, for each bushel of fifty-six pounds, and every plough-land of fifty pounds a year obliged to use one hundred bushels annually on such plough-land, and so in proportion for more or less, which would, supposing only ten millions of acres of the 39, 038, 500 of land in the forty counties of England, take one hundred millions of bushels; and at sixpence, would raise two millions and an half; and at three pence 1, 250, 000, and could not oppress the farmer, but would be vastly to his benefit. But if any one did not chuse to use the salt as a manure (and some out of obstinacy would not) to pay only the bare tax. It is not meant the present duty on salt should be taken off, for it means only that salt used for manure should be rendered *useless* for any other purpose by some mixture: and Mr. Lownds has said in his treatise of salt, page 30, “ That  
“ the

“ best salt in the world may be vitiated,  
 “ and a very large quantity of provi-  
 “ sions spoiled by a certain liquor which  
 “ cost *but a few pence*, and the officers  
 “ of the victualing office, and the pur-  
 “ fers and their clerks cannot be sup-  
 “ posed to be ignorant of it.”

Now this liquor might be used, or if not, foot, ashes, lime, dung, dirt in small quantities, to render salt useless for all other purposes.

The present consumption of salt is about two millions of bushels, which at three shillings and four pence is about 333,323, but the neat produce, when all officers are paid, is about only 190,000.

It is very plain that the salt in urine, dung, ashes, and all manure whatever, afford the greatest nutriment to all vegetables; but the great art is to fix on the proper quantity; too little will not have effect, and too much will certainly

ly destroy. So it is with physic, a proper quantity will be efficacious, but if you give a pound instead of an ounce, you kill your patient. From various experiments it is found, about ten bushels is enough for an acre; but it should be mixed with light land for clay, and with stiff land for sand: and the ingenious Mr. Thomas Hitt has tried many experiments on the nature of salt as a manure. See his Treatise of Fruit-Trees, page 16. He also tried, in a very bad year for hops, eight ounces to some hop-hills in a Kentish plantation; the consequence was, each hill so manured grew very well, when hills not so treated, in the same plantation, were intirely blighted and black.—This may induce us to think that as there is about twelve hundred hop-hills in an acre, about ten bushels may be about the quantity requisite. He also recommends eight ounces to each fruit-tree, page 277; and again recommends salt, page 279; all which seems to point out, that from eight to ten bushels on

an acre may not be too much. However, farmers would naturally try experiments, and those that dress their land with woollen rags would certainly make a *proper* brine, and steep their rags before they were chopped and sown, and possibly two facks so steeped would go as far on an acre as four do now, sown on dry.

To raise this tax no more officers would be appointed, unless the aforementioned board of plenty with clerks, or an inspector in every county. The duty on salt is now paid at the salterns by the buyer, but if vitiated there, to be allowed as for husbandry only, or if used in husbandry, the drawback to be allowed. The duty of the inspector would be to go his rounds through every village of each county twice a year, to see this law put in force, to receive of the church-wardens the lists of the plough-lands, and of the defaulters, to receive a report also of what quantity of corn and cattle was raised yearly

yearly in each parish; to receive the money levied of defaulters for anything committed against this act, and make his reports from time to time to the board of plenty.

I know there is one powerful objection, which is that there cannot be an hundred millions of bushels made over and above what is wanted for other uses, but to support the idea that there may, I shall only quote two books verbatim. The first is, *A Treatise on Salt*, published twenty-seven years ago on this very subject now before me, he says, after proposing eight bushels only for an acre, page 14.

" But should it be asked how so great a quantity of manufactured salt, as eighty millions of bushels can be made in Great Britain, over and above what is made for other uses. The answer is evident, for the salt spring at Droitwich alone are more than sufficient for that pur-

“ pose, in regard it appears by a mo-  
 “ derate computation that where one  
 “ gallon of that brine is made into salt  
 “ three hundred gallons run away to  
 “ waste. To these may be added the  
 “ vast quantity of brine and rock salt in  
 “ Cheshire, and all the many salt-  
 “ works for making salt from sea water  
 “ only, in many parts of the coast of  
 “ these kingdoms, which, on this ac-  
 “ count, will (no doubt) be very much  
 “ enlarged.

The other is A Letter from Mr.  
 Ralph Bridge to Mr. Lownds, in the  
 following words.

SIR,

31 of May, 1746

“ I have the favour of yours of the  
 “ 30th instant, have been long ac-  
 “ quainted with our salt springs in  
 “ Cheshire, and do believe there are  
 “ now springs there sufficient to make  
 “ twenty or thirty thousand tons a  
 “ year, and if there was a demand  
 “ more might be found.

I am, &c.

If

If these assertions are true there could be no want of salt, and in all great towns where salt is sold there are excisemen, who might allow the drawback of two shillings and ten pence the bushel, on the farmers producing proof the salt was used on the land and for no other purpose. Before I finish this first part, I must mention that many hundreds of bushels of salt is yearly thrown into the Thames, which salt has been used to salt green cod in the north seas, which would answer all the ends of the best salt; and as mixed with the blood and other parts of the fish, might even be better for this purpose.

It has occurred, that since the above was wrote, that farmers might use foul salt for brining their corn; but surely if they were compelled in one case, they might be excused in the other, and it might be a means for them to more readily come into the proposed method  
of

of using salt as a manure, and could not be of any material consequence.

To conclude this part, salt has been allowed by all authors that have wrote on husbandry to be the best, and as it is the cleanest and most easy of carriage, so also it would be the cheapest manure.

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## THE SECOND PART.

THE statute of Merton seems to point out that even at that time, so long ago as the twentieth year of Henry the third, it was thought necessary (provided there was left a sufficiency with egress and regress) for the lords of manors to inclose for approvement, that is for improvement; and this sufficiency, was to be determined by an assize or a jury. What quantities of land have agreeable to the statute of Merton, been inclosed since, at this distance of time may be impossible to find out with any certainty: but it may not be improper to observe it may be right by an act of parliament to ascertain and to fix on some quantum to be inclosed.

Let it be supposed there are, out of thirty-nine millions, 38, 500 acres in the counties of England only, ten millions

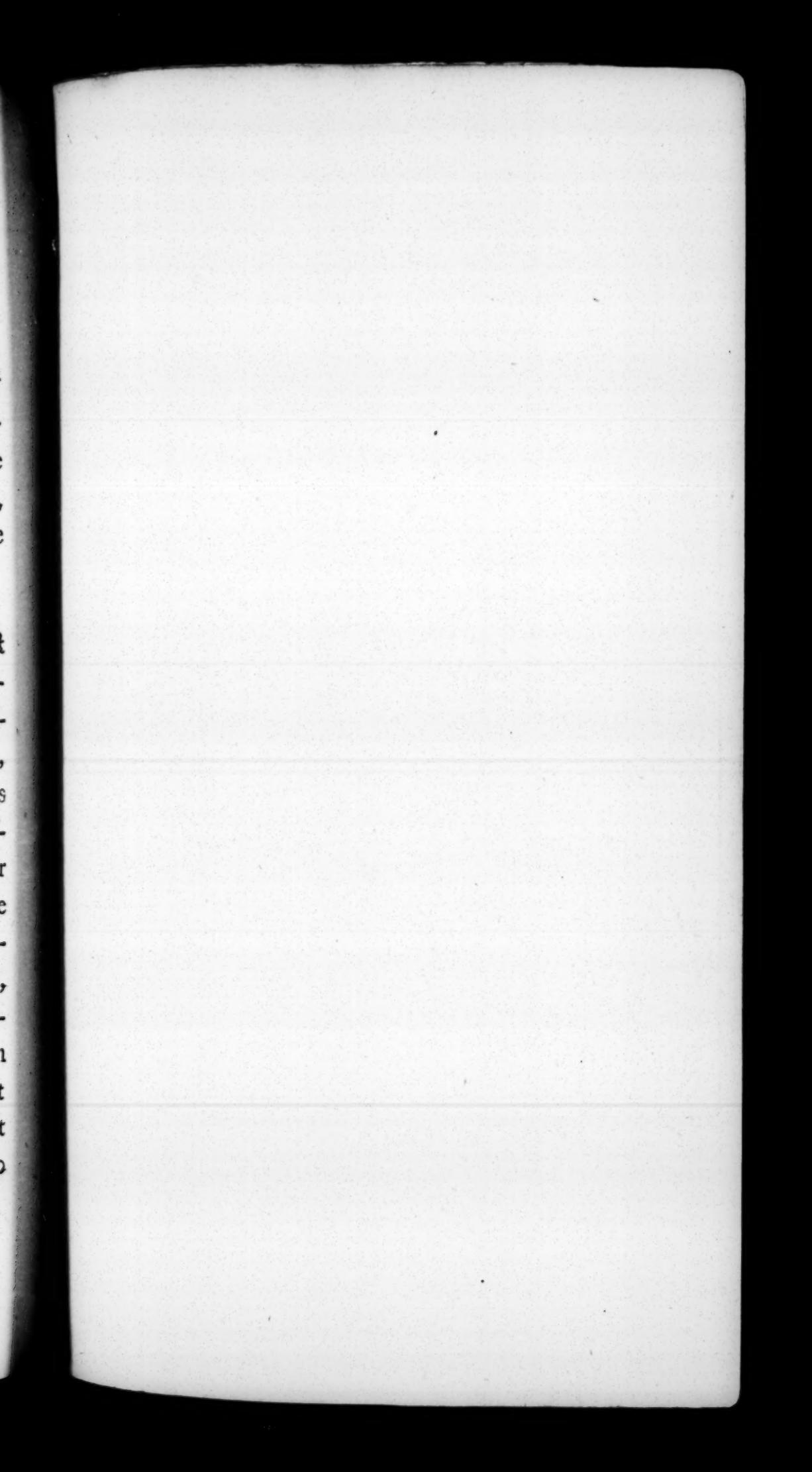
millions of acres of barren and uncultivated common; for it is not in the least meant to comprehend any downs or wolds, where great flocks of sheep are raised, but only such as are indeed of very little use, as Finchley common, Hounslow heath, Sunbury common, Mitcham common, Sutton, Cheam, Kingston, Putney and Wimbledon commons, and in short hundreds more within an hundred miles of London, besides thousands at a greater distance. Now it might be enacted that one fifth part might be sold by the lords; that is, for every thousand acres two hundred, in five lots of forty acres each, and under a thousand, twenty acres for every hundred: no common under an hundred acres to have any lot allowed. By this means 200,000 acres would be inclosed and sown; the lord of the manor to have four parts of the money for land so sold, and to pay the other fifth into the hands of the church-wardens for the immediate support of the poor during these times of scarcity. 200,000 at forty acres in each

each lot, would be divided to 5000 families, and there would remain 800,000 acres of common, which surely must be enough; the land to be granted in fee with right of common to each lot on the remaining common. At the same time it might be enacted that every purchaser should be obliged, in a limited time, to build a house, barn and stable, and to produce stock and corn according to the directions of the board of plenty for three years, they to appeal if aggrieved, within one hundred miles, to the said board, and if farther distant, to the quarter sessions; for it would be impossible from the differences of soil and situation, as well as other accidental circumstances, to require every forty acres to produce exactly the same stock of corn. But let us suppose each forty acres to produce two cows, twenty ewes, four sows, four geese, ten fowls, ten ducks, ten pigeons, eight rabbits and four bee-hives; half the produce to be saved for increase (if not otherwise altered on an appeal) for three

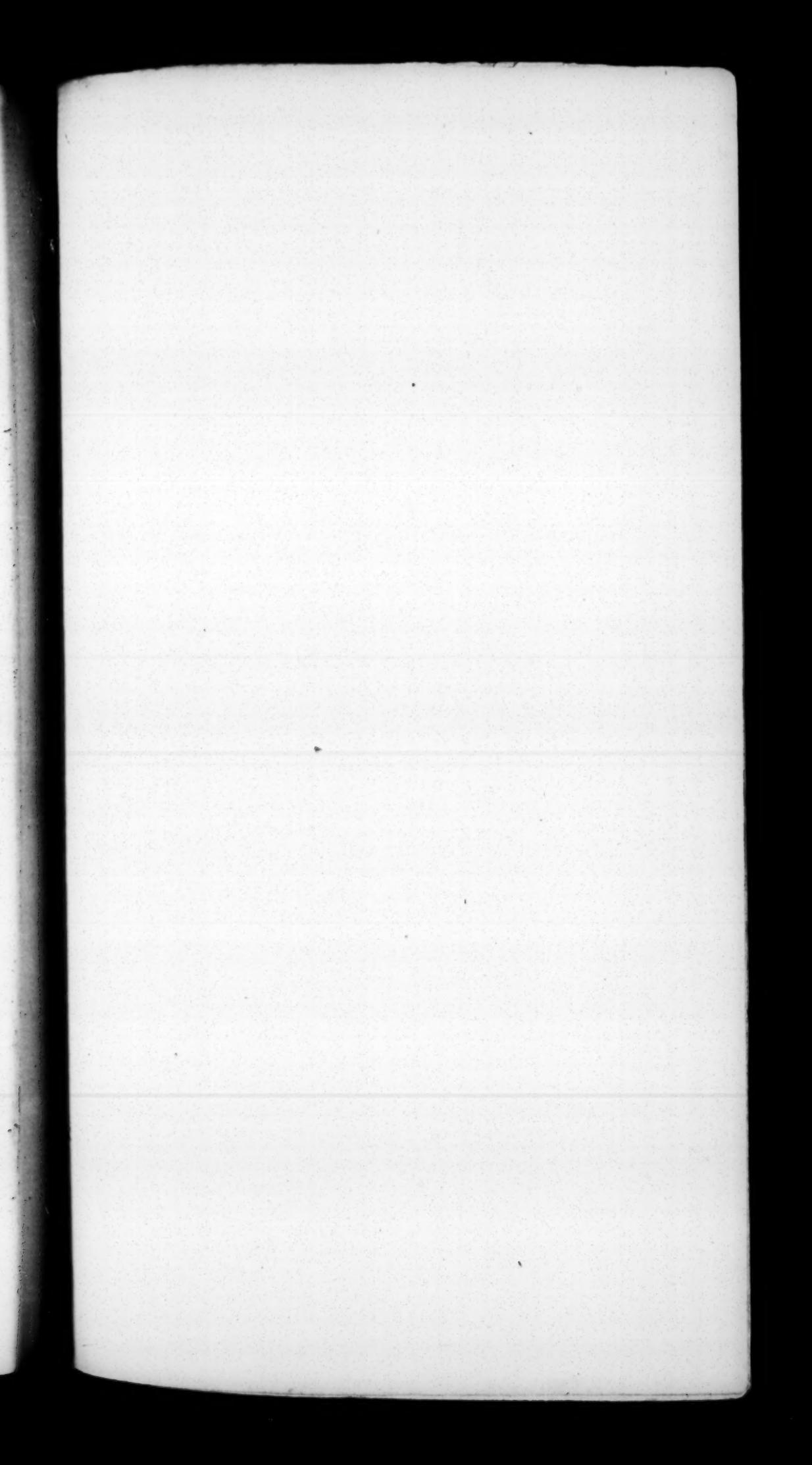
G                   years

years ; the other half to be sold or used in the family ; and these multiplied by 5000, the number of families for three years, would fill England full of provisions, besides eggs, butter, pigs, &c. I speak of it as if it was all to be in forty acre lots, but a twenty acre lot is supposed to raise only half : there would be some corn raised in every lot, which, when multiplied as before, would be very considerable.

There should also be planted first a fir tree, next an apple, next a forest-tree, next an apple, next a forest-tree, next an apple, next a forest-tree, next an apple, then a fir, and so on as before, at forty-one feet three inches distant, which would take sixteen trees for every forty rods, or it might be at the same distance, a fir-tree and a fruit-tree, or a forest-tree and a fruit-tree, alternately ; which would raise an amazing quantity of timber and fruit in half a century, and be a great ornament to the hedges. There will be about



<i>Arable</i>		<i>Meadow</i>		<i>Arable</i>
	<i>arable</i>		<i>arable</i>	
10	8	14	8	10
	<i>Pump Yard</i>	<i>Gardens</i>	<i>Pump Yard</i>	
<i>Arable</i>		<i>Pasture</i>		<i>Arable</i>
10		24		10





1280 trees on each 100 acres: and in 5000, there will be 64000 trees, and in 200,000 acres would be 2,560,000 trees. See the Plans annexed.

I have mentioned two or three sorts of stock not usual, as pigeons, rabbits and bees; pigeons rather do good than harm, and are easily kept to great profit: and rabbits, if a small place was walled or paled in, no more than two rods square, might easily be kept on the very refuse of the garden, as may be seen at the King's Head at Epsom. As to bees, as they seek their own food, the poor man can keep them as well as the rich, and it is an article should be particularly attended to.

These lots should not be liable ever to be divided but for ever kept under the same tenures and intire, and no man to purchase more than one lot in each common, or in any common adjoining. What is meant is to prevent monopolizing, and getting a great ma-

ny lots into few hands, therefore each lot to be sold, and used separate and distinct; this matter also to be adjusted by the board of plenty.

I know it will be objected, that commons at a distance from London won't find proper purchasers, and will fetch little; to which may be answered, commons near London and all great towns, I am afraid will have too many purchasers, and some very improper ones, which by all means should be prevented by the board, as many citizens and others would purchase merely to make country houses, and shrubberies, of which we have too much already; but that will be prevented; as no land should be disposed of, unless cultivated, as specified by the board, under forfeiture to the lord to be sold again.

One thing may at first be settled, which is the tythe. There should either be a yearly composition for each lot for ever, or, as it may be supposed no purchaser

chaser could reap much for the first five years, the modus decemandi not to take place till after that period; this is mentioned to prevent any dispute, whether such land was barren or only uncultivated land, as in one case it was determined to be. *vide, Burn's Ecclesiastical Law.*

These lands ought to be sold cheap under the fore-mentioned conditions. Suppose at five pounds per acre, one with another, which would raise 800,000 for the lords, and 200,000 for the immediate use of the poor, and of course would relieve the parishes, and enable them to put out apprentices, to portion young women in marriage, and to support the indigent and impotent. This scheme would also add to the revenue by the duty on houses and windows, and by salt used in husbandry; for every forty acres should be obliged to take to use in *husbandry only* an hundred bushels yearly; and it would help, in many places, to lower land and poor taxes, and the produce, in a few

few years, would answer the most sanguine hopes.

I should not have presumed to carry my thoughts, in relation to inclosures, farther than what is mentioned by the Statute of Merton, if there had not been many reports of his majesties most gracious intention of selling in small farms Enfield Chase, which chase is said to be four miles square, and contains 10240 square acres; if his majesty was only pleased to sell 5000 acres in the manner hereafter proposed, and to destroy the deer, those 5000 acres so near the capital would raise a prodigious deal of provisions, corn, fruit, timber, wool, &c. &c.

The method I presume to propose is by two lotteries, for any other method of sale would be liable to many objections; for if it was sold by auction stable keepers and monopolizers would over bid others, and the Londoners would buy without any knowledge of the matter for to turn into villas and  
plea-

pleasure ground: whereas by the method I propose, the board of plenty will have the whole management of this very important affair, and before any tickets are sold, will take care they be only sold to such as will conform to the conditions stipulated by them, or hereafter to be stipulated by them, as different circumstances may occur.

#### First Scheme of a lottery for land.

Tickets.	Acres.	Acres.
10 of 100	100	1000
10	50	500
20	20	400
60	10	600
—		—
100 prizes		2500
—		—
100 blanks		
—		
200 at 100 <i>l.</i> each		20,000 <i>l.</i>

Whoever had a prize to pay 1*l.* for each acre of such prize, which should pay each person having a blank 25 per cent. and the owners of such blank to have pre-emption of a ticket in the second lot-

lottery, or to assign such pre-emption, if he did not chuse to adventure farther, subject, nevertheless, to the approbation of the board of plenty.

Scheme of a second lottery for land.

Tickets.	Acres.	Acres.
10 of	80	800
10 of	40	400
10 of	20	200
110 of	10	1100
<hr/>		
140 prizes		2500
<hr/>		
140 blanks		
<hr/>		
280 at 100 <i>l.</i>		28000 <i>l.</i>

Out of which 7000*l.* must be allowed by government for the 140 blanks, which is just 50 per cent; and the planning and lotting the land, &c. and drawing the lotteries, I should think, would take the other thousand; so would remain 20000, and 20000 in the first would be 40000 pounds for what does not bring in (if information says

says true) one farthing to government, and the herbage now is of very little use, as I have been informed by one living at Southgate. And the deer being all destroyed would be a full compensation for the inclosure; for it is to be observed, a forest is very different from a common. The lord of a common has not the herbage but only soil, as mines, stones, timber on the soil; but in a forest or chase, the king, though others may have a right to turn out thereon, has the herbage for his venison. These 5000 acres would comfortably support 240 families; and suppose five in a family one with another, 1200 people; and they might be under the same regulation as the commons, and subject to produce stock, corn, poultry, bees, &c. according to the regulations heretofore mentioned.

Lotteries are not eligible things, but in this case the unfortunate adventurers could not complain, as they had so good

H                      chances;

chances; however, if any body can find out a better method I submit.

There should be a clause, no man having a prize in the first, should be admitted to buy a ticket in the second, and no man to be intitled to buy more than one ticket, and if he bought a superior prize to sell the inferior one, and so vice versa; this is meant to prevent monopolizing. I would have the hedges planted as before, sixteen trees in forty rods, which would be attended with one advantage; you might, if the field was square, by looking each way by the trees, see exactly, as they stand, the sixteenth of an acre a part, what was plowed, mowed, or reaped in any field at one view, which cannot be done now without measuring, as fields are generally very uneven and crooked-sided.

There will require much skill in planning and plotting the different lots, to save fencing, where it is possible to save valuable timber; and if possible,  
to

to plot it so, that every field in each lot, by means of a pump or pumps, might enjoy water; that the house be as near as may be in the middle. To conclude this I shall add a plan of an hundred acres as a specimen, and trees, as I would have them planted. This also, under the same terms, would be, besides the price given, some increase to the revenue.

Indeed the employment of so many men as this, must cause the increase of provisions of all sorts, the embellishing the country, now in many places almost impassible; and the many benefits accruing from it is an object worthy the attention of the greatest man and the greatest monarch.

F I N I S.

